

REMARKS

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application.

Entry of the above amendments is earnestly solicited.
An early and favorable first action on the merits is earnestly requested.

Should there be any matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended as follows:

Abstract

The present invention relates to antisense oligonucleotide compounds for use in modulating the function of nucleic acid molecules encoding mammalian MMP-12. More specifically, the invention provides compounds of 8 to 50 nucleobases in length capable of specifically hybridising with nucleic acid molecules encoding MMP-12 and thereby inhibiting the expression of the MMP-12 protein product, as well as pharmaceutical compositions thereof and methods of its use.

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

12. The compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein said compound is an antisense oligonucleotide composed of DNA or RNA or an analogue or mimic of DNA or RNA including but not restricted to the following: methylphosphonate, N3'->P5'-phosphoramidate, morpholino, peptide nucleic acid (PNA), locked nucleic acid (LNA), arabinosyl nucleic acid (ANA), fluoro-arabinosyl nucleic acid (FANA) methoxy-ethyl nucleic acid (MOE).

14. The compound according to ~~any one of claims 2-8~~, claim 2, wherein in that said oligonucleotide comprises at least one modified sugar moiety nucleobase.

16. A composition comprising the compound according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

18. A method of inhibiting the translation of MMP-12 in cells or tissues, wherein said cells or tissues are contacted with the compound of ~~any one of claims 1-15~~ claim 1 thereby inhibiting the translation of MMP-12.

19. A method of inhibiting the translation of MMP-12 in cells or tissues, wherein said cells or tissues are contacted with the composition of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 16-17 thereby inhibiting the translation of MMP-12.

20. The method according to claim ~~18-or-19~~, wherein the inhibition of the MMP-12 expression suppresses a MMP-12 dependent process in a human subject.

24. The method according to claim ~~22-or-23~~, wherein said MMP-12 dependent disorder is one of inflammatory bowel disease, such as ulcerative colitis and Crohn's disease, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, emphysema and asthma.

25. A recombinant nucleotide sequence comprising a compound according to ~~any one of claim 1-15~~.

32. A method of inhibiting the expression of MMP-12 in cells or tissues, wherein a composition according to claim ~~16-or-17~~

is administered to a human in a therapeutically effective dose together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.